

A BALANCED VIEW

2001 --- Continuing to Feel Our Way.

For the previous 88 issues of this Newsletter the name you have seen on the last page has been Bob Stein. Over the years this communication has been called the "Chairman's Newsletter", the "President's Newsletter", and, during the past year, "A Balanced View". Each edition has been prepared by Bob with skill, humor, and a sense of professionalism that will be difficult, if not impossible, to match. In 1999 when Bob announced that he wanted to step down as President after almost 24 years, your Board of Directors prevailed upon him to continue two of the many functions that he had carried out so well in past years into the year 2000. One function that he agreed to do in 2000, and on into this year, was the planning and Chairing of the Annual Convention in Chicago this coming May. (More on the convention later.)

The other function was the preparation of this Newsletter in the year 2000. Well, the year is over and this issue, the 89th, is before you with my name at the end. We are going to continue to call it "A Balanced View" to reflect the fact that the material in this Newsletter will hopefully come from many sources in the coming months, including many of you. I feel like the person who took the place of the great basketball coach, John Wooden. Talk about a tough act to follow!!

Your Board of Directors ----

I want to give recognition to the members of your Board of Directors who, along with some others, have made the change in the leadership transition-year of 2000 as smooth as it has

been (well, maybe not as rocky as it could have been). My thanks to Steve Beare who did an outstanding job setting up our web site this past year; Norm Cima, Secretary, who has given your President some very sound counsel; Jerry Katz, who has continued to do his fine work as a research resource for all of us; Ed Konowitz, Treasurer, who has the thankless job of bugging all of us; Ruth Willard, Associate Editor of EQM, who, along with the Editor, Diana Crawford-Hitchings, has made EQM the outstanding publication it is; and, lastly, Jerry Wilson, who runs our publications library and also has provided me sage counsel when asked. We also owe many thanks to Jan Macho, our Executive Secretary, and Bob Stein, our President Emeritus.

CHICAGO --- CONVENTION --- 25th ANNIVERSARY!!

Plans are well underway for a fabulous time in one of my favorite cities --- Chicago (well, I was born and raised there, so I may be biased). Bob has scheduled a program of special events to highlight the occasion of ISASC's 25th Anniversary.

The dates are May 10 to 13, 2001, at the Allerton Crowne Plaza Hotel right in the center of town on Chicago's Magnificent Mile. The Thursday afternoon -- May10 -- kick-off event will be a boat ride cruise featuring the architectural highlights on the Chicago River and the Lake Michigan city skyline. Thursday night will be dinner at a popular Navy Pier restaurant interspersed with novelty attractions such as a giant ferris wheel, a turn-of-the-century (the 19th, that is) carousel, a visit to the Stained Glass Museum, and a special late show at the IMax Theatre.

Bob has designated Friday as Museum Day at Chicago's Museum Campus, including the Museum of Science and Industry, the Art Institute, the Platarium, and the renowned Shedd

(3)

Aquarium. Special attractions: A world-famous collection of old watches and clocks, and Sue, the newly-famous dinosaur, complete to the last bone.

On Saturday and Sunday the metrology program will be highlighted by rare and unusual scales and guest speakers. Saturday --- lunch will be at a prominent Magnificent Mile Restaurant; Silent Auction in the afternoon; and at night the Anniversary Reception and Banquet will be held atop the Allerton on the hotel's 23rd floor overlooking Chicago's stunning skyline.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!!

EUROPE BOUND --- CORRECTION ON MEETING DATE.

In the last issue of this Newsletter, information was given regarding the Spring meeting of ISASC Europe in England. That issue stated that the meeting was to be held on April 8, 2001. That date is in error. The meeting will be held on **April 22**. The meeting will be held at the Burton Manor College in Neston, Cheshire, which is just outside Chester.

Anyone who is planning a trip to Europe in the Spring and has the opportunity to get to Chester would have a marvelous time at their meeting. Chester is a great place to go antiquing. Burton Manor was the home of the son of Queen Victoria's Prime Minister, William Gladstone. Janet Skarett, whom many of you have met at our conventions, is the Meetings Secretary for ISASC Europe and has asked that if you are interested she should know by March 10 to ensure a booking. I have been to several of their meetings and plan to be at Chester. I have enjoyed them all. Janet's correct address is Lindridge Hall Farm, Desford, Leicester, LE9 9FD.

ISASC PUBLICATIONS --- A Gold Mine of Information.

I have found that one of the best parts of belonging to this organization is the access to the Society's library and the publications that are available to us, some of which are not available anywhere else. Along with the EQM mailing we periodically send out an updated library list of all the publications available at a price that just covers our cost of reproduction and mailing. As I mentioned earlier, Jerry Wilson, 11651 Turner Heights Dr., Escondido, CA 92026, handles the library and publications for us.

I want to take this opportunity to "tout" one publication in particular. Most long-time members have a copy and use it as a "bible". It's Michael Crawforth's 130 page document called a "Handbook of Old Weighing Instruments". It is not only a complete source document on all the variations of scales and weights, but it includes sections on registration and verification marks, historical postage rates, patent numbers, and an extensive dictionary and glossary of terms. This outstanding source document is only \$30.

Postal Scales and Balances --- Clifford Lushbaugh

On the opposite page I have reproduced a copy of an article that appeared in the October 2000 issue of "Scott Stamp Monthly". Our congratulations to Clifford Lushbough of Aurora, Colorado, a long time member of ISASC. Included in the article were pictures and descriptions of 37 of the more than 100 unusual postal scales owned by Cliff. Space constraints prevent me from including the photos of the scales, but I was impressed by the diversity of your collection, Cliff.

Postal Scales and Balances

CLIFFORD LUSHBOUGH

(Editor's Note: Clifford Lushbough gave a program about postal scales at ROMPEX 2000 in Denver. After seeing his presentation, we asked him to share this unusual postal collecting specialty with Scott Stamp Monthly readers.

The prehistoric invention of the balance is probably one of the most important to mankind. Its impact is similar to the invention of the wheel. Research indicates that the first balance may have been conceived in Mesopotamia around 2100 B.C. but the Egyptians are known to have used a very crude balance using ropes and long pieces of wood or stone circa 4000 B.C. The double hanging pan balance was invented by the Egyptians and the design is still used today.

The necessity for some method of weighing things must have occurred early to mankind. In fact, some people think that man might have a sixth sense, that of weight, and the method that man used to compare the weight of two objects was the simple one of balancing them, one in each hand. This method gave a general comparison of weight, but was by no means accurate. Through practice, some people may have become "experts in weighing." It could be assumed that this method was quickly replaced by the use of a bar or stick, supported upon a central point.

With a simple tool of this kind the groundwork was laid for the discovery of the equal arm and unequal arm balances.

In recent years, scales have been constructed that are sensitive to 10 to 15 millionths of a gram and there are scales capable of weighing objects that weigh hundreds of tons.

A measure of the civilization of a people in any period of its history can be obtained by studying the attention given to the invention and perfection of devices for weighing and measuring.

A WEIGHTY COLLECTION

My interest in measuring devices of all types was created because of my science background. I have always been fascinated in the way these devices worked. So it was only natural that I get a few of these "things" and see how they worked. Scales became my main interest. My collection of scales started about 10 years ago and, at present, includes about 200 scales, balances and sets of weights.

Scales can be divided into about six categories: equal arm; unequal arm; pendulum; spring; substitution; and electromagnetic.

Within these six categories are classifications for use: postal; household; scientific; shop; egg; dairy; gold; weighing people; and other.

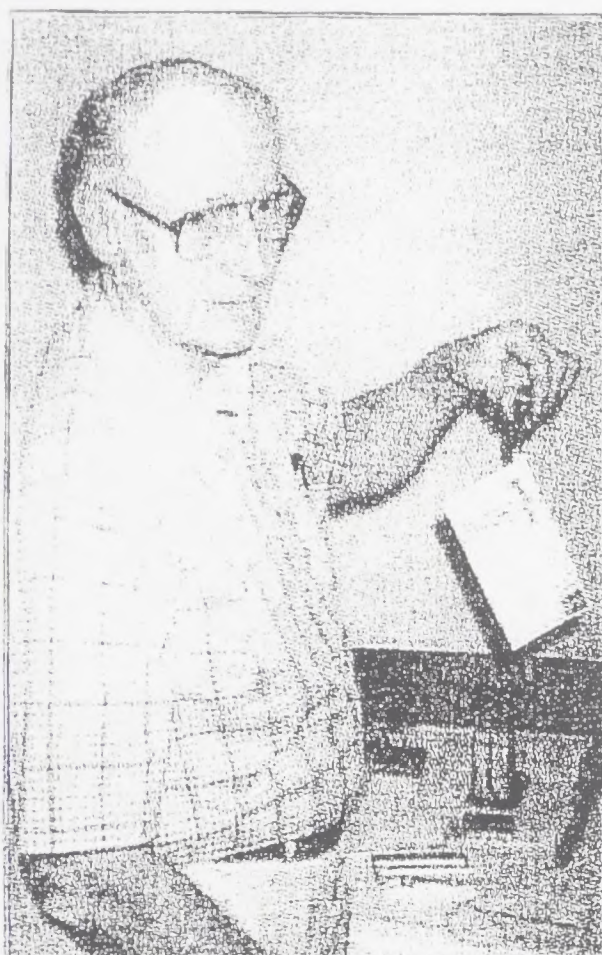
My collection includes some of each type and kind. It continues to grow and I am amazed at the diversity of scales and the many methods used to do the same thing: weigh an object.

POSTAL SCALES

Postal scales had their beginning in England with the British Unified Postal Act of 1840. The rate charged for letters mailed previous to this time was based on the number of sheets and not the weight. Letters mailed by weight in the United States started in the early 1860s.

Postal scales have been made using all known principles of weighing, and the way they look seems to have no end. Scales may have a fan face, bow face, flat face, tubular face, digital face, viewing window, and, presumably, others. There are postal scales using equal-arm, unequal arm, pendulum, coil spring, flat spring, weight-lifting, bilateral, hydraulic, rolamite, stress gauge, electronic, and others yet to be found or discovered.

The scales shown here are a part of my collection, which is by no means complete. It contains about 70 postal scales with very little duplication. No doubt I'll find a different one during my next visit to the flea market, second-hand store, antique shop, or to a friend's house.



Lushbough holds a unique little scale made by DBP, Germany, for the Sauter Scale Co. It was a promotional item or gift given to customers. It has the usual clip to hold the letter and a scale to 100 grams. However it does not have a spring. Instead it has a small black coin shaped magnet at the top that is attached to the shaft that has the clip. Lower in the clear plastic case is a similar magnet with a hole in it to allow the shaft with the clip to pass through. These two magnets oppose each other, therefore the reading is zero with no letter. With a letter in the clip, the clip and letter will come to rest at a point where the two magnetic fields are at equilibrium.

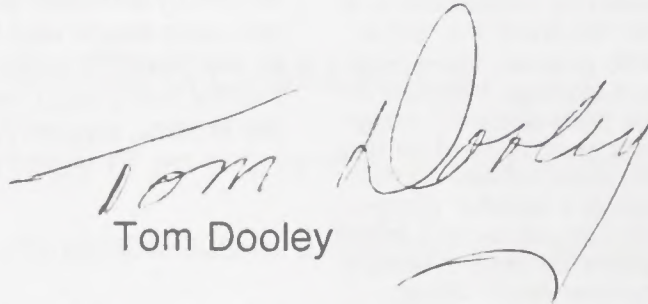
Photo by Peter Martin

Benefactor Program

Our thanks to all of you who contributed to our Benefactor Program. At the time of the preparation of this newsletter, your Treasurer, Ed Konowitz, had not completed the posting and compiling of the contributions. I will include that information in the next newsletter.

Finally -----

I would appreciate receiving any news items about yourselves or other members of ISASC that you would like to share with us. I heard about the article featuring Cliff Lushbough from Ruth Willard who said she would see to it that I got a copy. Also, I would like to receive any other items of interest related to our hobby so that they can be shared by all.


Tom Dooley